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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicants:

S. Carroll, et al.

Int. Appln. No:

PCT/US03/19172

Int. Filing Date:

17 June 2003

US Appln. No.:

To Be Assigned

Case No.: 21122YP

Art Unit: TBA

Filed:

Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: TBA

For:

NUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS

OF RNA-DEPENDENT RNAVIRAL

POLYMERASE

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected on page 2 of this response. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this

response. Remarks begin on page 8 of this response.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICAT DATE OF DEPOSIT EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 4213 417

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE I BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" On the above date in an envelope addressed to COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-4450.